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Attorneys for Plaintiffs and the Proposed Class

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE CENTRAL DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

JAMES ESTAKHRIAN and ABDI
NAZIRI, on behalf of themselves and
all others similarly situated,

Plaintiffs,

v.

MARK OBENSTINE, BENJAMIN F.
EASTERLIN IV, TERRY A.
COFFING, KING & SPALDING, LLP
and MARQUIS & AURBACH, P.C.,

Defendants.

Case No. 2:11-cv-3480-FMO-CW

CLASS ACTION

**DECLARATION OF STEVEN A.
SKALET IN SUPPORT OF
PLAINTIFFS' MOTION FOR
ATTORNEYS' FEES AND COSTS**

Hrg. Date: January 14, 2016

Time: 10:00 a.m.

Hon. Fernando M. Olguin

DECLARATION OF STEVEN A. SKALET

I, Steven A. Skalet, declare as follows:

1. I am one of the attorneys for plaintiffs in this case and a founder and principal of Mehri & Skalet, PLLC in Washington, DC. I give this declaration in support of Plaintiffs' Renewed Motion for Attorneys' Fees and Costs.

2. I am a 1971 graduate of the University of Pennsylvania School of Law and have been in continuous practice since graduation. More information about Mehri & Skalet and my biography is attached to Plaintiffs' Renewed Motion for Preliminary Approval of Settlement Agreement. I am a member of the Bars of the District of Columbia and Maryland and numerous federal courts.

3. I and my firm have substantial class action experience. I believe that the fees requested are reasonable considering the work required to litigate and successfully settle this case and the risk undertaken by Plaintiffs' Counsel, including the risk of advancing out-of-pocket costs in a contingency case and the risk of non-payment of fees if the case were not won. The attorneys' fee requested is further justified in light of the fact that it represents significantly less than Plaintiffs' Counsel's combined lodestars to date.

4. Mehri & Skalet maintains regular hourly billing rates for all attorneys, paralegals, and law clerks whose case-related work time is billed, which are generally consistent with court-approved Adjusted Laffey rates. It is submitted that these rates are reasonable for attorneys of similar experience, reputation and expertise, and is consistent with the prevailing market rates for attorneys with comparable levels of experience.

5. The lodestar amount (hours worked times hourly rates) is based on the time recorded in contemporaneous billing records. My firm logs the billable time of its billing attorneys and paralegals in a detailed, contemporaneous, and task-specific manner, on a daily basis. Such billing records have been maintained for this case. The tasks on which work was done, on an individual timekeeper and a day-by-day

1 basis is specified in the detailed time entries, which we can make available for *in*
2 *camera* review at the Court's request.

3 6. I have reviewed the billing records from my firm and certify to the Court
4 that these records accurately reflect work reasonably and necessarily performed in
5 connection with the litigation of this matter. I have exercised billing judgment and
6 reduced duplicative hours and time billed by attorneys and paralegals of marginal
7 importance to the case. Additional time will, of course, be spent in completing the
8 final approval process, assuring payout to the class, and responding to questions of
9 class members.

10 7. A summary of the hours billed to this case from September 2010 through
11 November 15, 2015 is attached to this declaration as Exhibit A. The lodestar
12 amount for Mehri & Skalet's representation of plaintiffs is \$2,225,630.35.
13 Expenses incurred through November 15, 2015 by Mehri & Skalet in connection
14 with the case are \$110,616.88 broken down as shown on Exhibit B.

15 8. At the Court's direction, we have not billed for electronic research nor for
16 common office overhead such as telephone, faxes and regular mail. We did not
17 bill for charges relating to entering our appearances *pro hac vice*. We have
18 included expenses for overnight mail deliveries and for the costs of offsite and
19 onsite printing and copying relating to the litigation, such as copying documents
20 produced in discovery, depositions, exhibits and other litigation related matters.
21 We have charged onsite copying and printing at \$.15 per page for black and white
22 and \$.35 for color copies. We combined our charges for onsite copying and
23 printing because the distinction is only whether the paper copies produced were
24 sent from an electronic computer file (printed) or were scanned from paper
25 (copied).

26 9. Plaintiffs' counsel have not included any contributions to the firms'
27 litigation fund. Since we maintained the litigation fund, we have included
28 litigation expenses that were paid directly from the litigation fund.

1 I declare under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct.

2 

3
4 Steven A. Skalet

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6 Executed this 2nd day of December, 2015 in Washington, D.C.

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8 *Additional counsel for Plaintiffs:*

9 **MEHRI & SKALET PLLC**

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EXHIBIT A**Mehri & Skalet PLLC**

	Hours	Hourly Rate	Amount
Steven A. Skalet, Principal	665.97	\$790.00	\$526,113.67
Cyrus B. Mehri, Principal	8.85	\$790.00	\$6,991.50
Raymond C. Fay, Of Counsel ¹	758.12	\$790.00	\$598,912.17
Michael D. Leider, Of Counsel	1.70	\$790.00	\$1,343.00
Ellen L. Eardley, Partner	6.90	\$655.00	\$4,519.50
Taryn Wilgus-Null, Associate	305.27	\$580.00	\$177,054.67
Karla A. Gilbride, Associate	1246.24	\$580.00	\$722,815.34
Teresa N. Yeh, Associate	2.70	\$400.00	\$1,080.00
Danielle E. Davis, Associate	83.40	\$400.00	\$33,360.00
Joanna K. Wasik	33.50	\$325.00	\$10,887.50
Ingrid N. Babri	6.00	\$325.00	\$1,950.00
Pia M. Winston, Associate	5.75	\$325.00	\$1,868.75
Law Clerks	28.3	\$200.00	\$5,660.00

¹ This figure represents hours billed by Raymond C. Fay through October 31, 2013.

1	Paralegals	650.82	\$195.00	\$126,909.25
2	Paralegals	34.25	\$180.00	\$6,165.00
3	TOTAL			\$2,225,630.35

EXHIBIT B**Mehri & Skalet PLLC**

Expenses	Amount
Depositions	\$21,082.20
Experts	\$29,708.86
Filing Fees	\$1,810.50
Litigation Document Management	\$4,297.00
Lodging	\$4,873.59
Meals	\$2,203.62
Mediation	\$9,150.00
PACER fees	\$495.26
Parking	\$409.00
Printing (BW& Color) and Copying	\$ 7,079.71
Process Service	\$ 898.34
Transcripts	\$ 13,198.25
Travel	\$ 14,940.60
Overnight Delivery	\$ 469.95
TOTAL	\$110,616.88